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Applicant

John MacAlister

TITLE : A MOUNT

Serial No. : 09/905,261

Filing Date : 13 July 2001

Examiner/Unit : Nasser Ahmad / 1772

## Appeal Brief

TO THE COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS:

The Applicant herewith submits an amended appeal brief in response to the Notification of a Non-Compliant Brief, mailed 7<sup>th</sup> January, 2007.

The Appellant would refer the Board of Appeal to the history of the application, in which little or no change has had to be made to the application due to arts cited previously but, rather, each time, the rejections have been withdrawn as the Appellant has been able to clarify the proper interpretation of the cited arts. Therefore :

In the hope that it might be of use in any deliberations concerning the USPTO's new pre-appeal review procedure, the Appellant wishes it to be known that, while it might not likely have made a case for a hearing under the pre-appeal review procedure, he has been dismayed that the Examiner has chosen to cite, sequentially over 5 years, prior arts some of which were disclosed by the Applicant before the first Office Action, in 2002. Treglown (GB2333050), for example, was disclosed in July 2002, as soon as the UK Patent Office had cited (and withdrawn) it – see GB2,369,601B. The Examiner cited GB2333050 in November 2005, having first considered it on 12/01/2002 and failed to cite it at that time.

For information, the chronology of the citing of arts is shown in the "Evidence" section of this brief, pp 20, 21.

Submitted by

John MacAlister, 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2007



Appeal : application 09/905,261

## Appeal Brief

Application : 09/905, 26

Title : A Mount

Filing Date : July 13<sup>th</sup>, 2001

Applicant : John MacAlister

Examiner : Nasser Ahmad

Art Unit : 1772

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**Real Party of Interest**

The real party of interest in application 09/905, 261, is the inventor and Applicant in the matter, John MacAlister, of Clockhouse 1, Rookery Park, Yoxford, Suffolk, IP17 3HQ, UK.

**Related Appeals and Interferences**

None

## Status of Claims

Page 6 shows, in a table, the current status of the claims for 09/905,261

Pages 7-9 list the rejected claims.

Pages 10-13 present these claims, grouped as per the Grounds for Rejection

A full list of claims is of course contained in the Claims Appendix, pp 21-23

Broadly, all claims which have not been cancelled have had the rejections in view of Su (US5,462,782) et al withdrawn, to be replaced by rejections due to

- Wilkins (US 6038803) or/and
- Treglown (App. GB2333050)

**STATUS OF CLAIMS**

<b>CLAIM</b>	<b>Status</b>
1	
2	Cancelled
3	Cancelled
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	Cancelled
11	Cancelled
12	Cancelled
13	Cancelled
14	
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17	
18	
19	Cancelled
20	Cancelled
21	Cancelled
22	Cancelled
23	Cancelled
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29	Cancelled
30	Cancelled
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<b>KEY</b>	Rejection in last Office Action - 35 USC 112 withdrawn
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 102(e) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Rejections maintained - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Wilkins
	Now Rejected - 35USC 103(a) Unpatentable over Treglown

Claims: 09/905,261 – annotated with status

1. *(Rejected: Wilkins + Treglown)* A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.
4. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces of the mount are mutually opposite.
5. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first surface of the mount adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of the sheet object to form the mountable arrangement.
6. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount releasably secures the mountable arrangement directly to glass.
7. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
8. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is flexible.
9. *(Rejected: Treglown)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is transparent.
14. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2 mm.
15. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 14, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
16. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is square, rectangular, triangular or circular.
17. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
18. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount comprises a pigment material.

25. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet object permanently or releasably to form a mountable arrangement and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite
26. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating, adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement.
27. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
28. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the mount is flexible.
31. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2mm.
32. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 31, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
33. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
34. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface of the mount is adhered releasably to a backing material.
35. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount according to claim 25, wherein the entire surface of the mount is adhered to less than half of the area of a surface of a sheet object for permitting the said sheet object to be mounted to glass.
36. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and
  - securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.
37. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* The method according to claim 36, wherein the first material is a paper-based material.

38. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material is a glass-based material.

39. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material has a smooth surface.

40. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:

- adhering a first surface of a mount to a part of one surface of a sheet of paper with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and the sheet of paper form a mountable arrangement; and
- securing a second surface of the mount to glass without adhesive, where page 17 and second surfaces are mutually opposite and each mount consists of a layer of plastic such as PVC.

41. *(Rejected: Wilkins)* A mount arrangement for mounting paper to glass comprising: a plurality of mounts, each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet of paper to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface capable of securing such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive; where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite.

Claims under Appeal – grouped as per Grounds of Rejection

Claims 25-28, 33-40 which are said to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Wilkins (6038803)

25. A mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet object permanently or releasably to form a mountable arrangement and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite
26. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating, adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement.
27. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
28. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the mount is flexible.
33. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
34. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface of the mount is adhered releasably to a backing material.
35. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the entire surface of the mount is adhered to less than half of the area of a surface of a sheet object for permitting the said sheet object to be mounted to glass.
36. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and
  - securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the first material is a paper-based material.
38. The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material is a glass-based material.
39. The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material has a smooth surface.
40. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - adhering a first surface of a mount to a part of one surface of a sheet of paper with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and the sheet of paper form a mountable arrangement; and
  - securing a second surface of the mount to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and each mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

Claims 1, 4-8, 16-18 and 41 which are said to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)

1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.
4. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces of the mount are mutually opposite.
5. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first surface of the mount adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of the sheet object to form the mountable arrangement.
6. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount releasably secures the mountable arrangement directly to glass.
7. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
8. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is flexible.

16. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is square, rectangular, triangular or circular.
17. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
18. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount comprises a pigment material.
  
41. A mount arrangement for mounting paper to glass comprising:  
a plurality of mounts, each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet of paper to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface capable of securing such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive; where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite.

Claims 14-15 and 31-32 which are said to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)

14. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2 mm.
15. A mount according to claim 14, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
  
31. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2mm.
32. A mount according to claim 31, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.

Claims 1 and 9 which are said to be unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Treglown (Application GB2333050)

1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.
  
9. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is transparent.

**Status of Amendments**

No amendments have been made following, or as a result of, the most recent (final) rejection.

## Summary of Claimed Subject Matter

The subject matter in the independent claims involved in the appeal can be found as shown below

### CLAIM

1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.

### Related material:

Under "Brief Summary of the Invention", page 1, col 2, please see paragraph 0017, et seq., which support claim 1 as it introduces the concept – of utilising a tag which attaches to a piece of, usually, paper to attach itself, carrying the sheet object, to glass by its cling properties. The optimum composition of the PVC as to the degree of softening required to obtain suitable cling properties, is discussed in the text (0035-0036). The concept is supported by paragraph 0028, which expands on the use of cling properties to adhere the invention to glass, while 0035 gives detail on the achievement of optimum "cling" properties to adhere the mount to glass.

Fig 4, the illustration used on the front page of the application, shows a plurality of the mount, 5, attaching a first material, 7, such as paper, to a second material such as glass, 8.

Paragraphs 0030 – 0032 detail the use of adhesive on the first side of the invented mount, which adheres the mount to a first material. The device mounts the first material (usually paper) to glass by cling, by its untreated opposing, second, surface.

Claims 4 – 24 are dependent claims on Claim 1. These claims are referred to in specification paragraphs 0028-0039 and define further the mount's physical and chemical features. The text relates how dimensions were optimised by experimentation and argument.

#### CLAIM

25. A mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet object permanently or releasably to form a mountable arrangement and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite

#### Related Material

Claim 25 details embodiments of the invention in which either a permanent or releasable adhesive is coated on the first side of the plastic film.

Claims 26-35 then detail the range of dimensions and features determined for either case – permanent or releasable adhesive.

Reference may be made to the specification, paragraphs 0028-0039 and to Fig 4.

#### CLAIM

36. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:

- releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and

- securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

Related material:

This claimed new method of mounting a sheet object, such as paper, to a second surface such as glass, is in claim 36 and associated claims 37-40 and discussed in the specification at paragraphs 0017 and 0020 and in Fig 4 and its description on page 4, paragraph 0059. That neither of the currently cited prior arts is so structured as to be able to attach a sheet object to a glazed surface is argued elsewhere in the "Argument" pages and in the applicant's illustrated responses to the last Office Action.

CLAIM

40. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:

- adhering a first surface of a mount to a part of one surface of a sheet of paper with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and the sheet of paper form a mountable arrangement; and
- securing a second surface of the mount to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and each mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

Related Material

Claim 36 refers to the use of a releasable adhesive on one surface of the mount – the side by which it attaches to the sheet object. Thus, the mount is detatchable from the sheet object after use. Claim 40 here describes a mount with one side coated with permanent adhesive and implies a different use, namely one in which the mount is not detached from the sheet object after use.

Please see the Specification, paragraph 0019 and refer to Fig 4 and its description in paragraph 0059.

## CLAIM

41. A mount arrangement for mounting paper to glass comprising:

a plurality of mounts, each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet of paper to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface capable of securing such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite

## Related Material

Claim 41 reveals the reasoning behind the development of the specific ranges of dimensions of the mounts described in claims 14 et seq. ...They are normally to be used as a plurality, in an array of mounts each of which is attached to part-only of the sheet object, which is then attached to a glazy surface using the cling properties on the second surface of the mounts. Other claims describe the unique form of the mount, arrived at by experimentation; claim 41 illustrates why such a structure was developed – to fulfil the function of being part of an array in normal use.

Since the mount is so much smaller than the usual sheet object such as a poster or notice which is to be attached to glass, it generally entails such an array or multiple use as, for example, a mount attached to each corner of the sheet object. The mounts thus act as a plurality, each holding a corner of the sheet to the glass

This normal use of a plurality of the invented mount is a characteristic of the invention and can be seen referred to in Figs 3 and 4, which are described in paragraphs 0058 and 0059 of the specification. No claim is made on the achievement of a plurality of the mount.

### Grounds of Rejection to be Reviewed on Appeal

The Appellant requests that the following grounds be reviewed on appeal:

1. Whether claims 25-28, 33-40 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) over Wilkins (6038803)
2. Whether claims 1, 4-8, 16-18 and 41 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
3. Whether claims 14-15 and 31-32 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Wilkins (6038803)
4. Whether claims 1 and 9 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Treglown (Application GB2333050)

## Argument

As the Appellant understands it, the final hurdle to be overcome in order to be granted a US patent, is the Examiner's assertion that two cited arts directly inform the present invention. Indeed the Examiner's contention is that the invention in one case directly parallels the function of the present application.

The Examiner's rejections are based on what the Appellant sees as a misunderstanding of aspects of, particularly, Wilkins "Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays" US3038803, which misunderstandings he then applies across batches of the present claims, ultimately dismissing every claim.

Therefore, rather than exhaustively arguing each claim of the present application, the Appellant will now address the Examiner's understanding of each of the two currently cited arts, to show the Board that the structures of these - and their intended use - distance them from the present application and that, in fact it is impossible to utilise either of the cited arts to perform the functions of this invention.

### Cited Art: Treglown (GB2333050), "Blue Tabs"

This art, a copy of which is in the "Evidence" pages, sets out "to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape."

The inventors sought a non-porous flexible film to use as a barrier to prevent staining and damage, by mastics, to the back of posters. At no time does the application refer to the invention as anything but a barrier device with a means of fixing this to the back of the poster.

Neither does this art anywhere refer to mounting a poster on glass. Indeed, the whole invention claims its use for application to the REAR of a poster, for the purposes of protecting said poster when mastic is used to mount the poster on a WALL or a similar surface.

The words, "window" or "glass" or, importantly, "cling" never appear in this art, which concerns itself solely with facilitating the use of mastics in a less-damaging way.

In view of the above, plus the fact that the PVC referred to as one of several possible plastics to be used in the tabs is not attributed any cling properties, the Appellant contends that it is too tenuous to suppose that the present application, which is invented as a new way to attach posters to, principally, glass, is informed by such a device for improving the use of a quite different mounting medium on walls or doors.

The Appellant believes that the keyword search having produced this art, the Examiner should, according to 35 U.S.C. 112 para 6, recognise the difference between the intended uses and the structures of the two inventions and accord the present application recognition of the inventive step it represents. The prior art should not be considered equivalent.

Note for information : There is presently no admission or claim in the present application's claims concerning the cling properties of PVC, which means that, since the Examiner required the removal of claims which appeared to claim invention of the cling properties of the mounts, the only reference remaining to the actual composition of PVC used is in the specification (0035 et seq.).

Cited Art: Wilkins, F.E. (US 6038803), "Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays" (Copy in "Evidence" section)

The Examiner's case for rejecting the present appealed application over Wilkins rests on one main footing:- He contends that ( to quote Office Action 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005 ) "Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col. 3, line 50-60)

With respect:

1. Wilkins never claims a mount. Never uses the word. A mount, by definition, takes one material and mounts it on another. Wilkins has invented a single sheet for attaching itself - and nothing else – to a glass-covered picture. This intended use resulted in a structure which is a self-cling single sheet with printer's ink or paints on one side (its 'front') and a clean, unprinted side(the 'back'), by which to attach itself to the existing glass-covered picture through PVC cling.
2. There is no reference in Wilkins to "having a first surface carrying an adhesive". What the Examiner leans on in his assertion, is the sentence appended to the explanations of two figures : "Optionally, a tacky adhesive may be used to

secure the decorative covering D to the original picture B.", which we examine later.

Wilkins's entire premise, as the Appellant has stated previously in arguments, [See response (02 02 06) to Office Action] is that her invented sheet is simple, having an opaque picture printed over one side of the plastic and able to cling to the glass cover of an existing picture by the cling properties of the other, unprinted, side. There is nothing more to it. Her patent is for a special use of the display industry's well-used technology for self-cling signs, such as "Sale" signs.

Why does she then refer at all to adhesive?

Consider the statement immediately before she does so :- (col 3, line 54) "Once again the particular material used can be varied PROVIDED THAT the chosen material exhibits static cling to permit the decorative covering D to be electrostatically adhered over the original picture B."

Clearly, since there is therefore no pre-existing adhesive on the structure. It is to cover the eventuality that the invented self-cling sheet may not attach itself to the picture frame glass (because of dimpled non-reflective glass, perhaps) that she adds the option to use tacky adhesive when it comes to actually adhering the decorative sheet.

This adhesive is not part of the structure. Not part of the invention.

In the absence of adhesive in the specification of the structure, the Appellant contends that the tacky adhesive referred to is intended to be applied to the join between the invented sheet and the original picture on an ad-hoc basis, at the moment the invented sheet is being deployed on the glass OR, more significantly, in view of the Examiner's assertion, the adhesive may be applied initially to the glass and not to the invented structure. It is certainly not imported to the situation as part of the structure.

Nor is an adhesive specified to adhere the protective backing. Quite the reverse... (Col 4, line 32) \*\* : "The protective backing may be formed from any material which can be electrostatically adhered to the decorative covering E." . This limitation is important.

It is therefore an incorrect assumption by the Examiner to state, above, "Wilkins relates to a mount (D,E) consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive (col. 3, line 50-60). (Applicant's underlines)

The Examiner has failed to respond adequately to this previously-submitted argument and the Appellant respectfully asks that the Board give it their consideration, since the current rejection depends on this continued misinterpretation of the cited art.

Finally, with regard to Wilkins, the Examiner also asserts on her behalf that she has invented a mount which "carries" adhesive on it.

To quote Office Action 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005 :

"Wilkins also teaches a method for securing a first material to a second material comprising releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material (F) which is well known to be paper in the adhesive art, with an adhesive carried by the first surface and securing the second surface to a second material (1) without adhesive"

Let us examine this.

First, referring to Fig 5, Wilkins attaches her protective sheet, if any, to the BACK of the invented cling sheet using that very property, cling, to protect the cling properties. She proposes adhesive not be used for this, as the paragraph 5 before this. See above.\*\*

Second, the "cling" BACK of the invented sheet being thus burdened with the (paper) protection, the FRONT side of the invented sheet, E, is the one over which indicia has been printed and which, as a result, has no cling properties. How, then, can the Examiner suppose that his alleged Wilkins "mount" might work? ...or inform 09/905,261

Wilkins certainly does not teach the use of her invention as *a mount to attach a first material to a second*. The only thing her invention is structured for and the only function she describes, is attaching the invented sheet *itself* to the glass-covered front of an existing picture.

The rejection of the present application, apparently on the basis that prior art mentions PVC or adhesive, is very tenuous and analogous to rejecting the invention of the axe because others have used lumps of stone and sticks separately. Neither the function nor the structure of the cited arts are congruent with, or inform, the present idea.

The Appellant hopes that the Board, examining the intentions of the inventors, the intended uses of the devices and the resulting structures, will agree that the present application is not unpatentable over either Treglown or Wilkins and indeed, may go forward to grant.

### Claims Appendix

There follows a copy of the claims involved in the appeal, namely :

Claim	I
Claims	4-9
Claims	14-18
Claims	25-28
Claims	31-41

In summary, all the claims of 09/905,261 are under rejection. Where claim numbers are missing, these claims were previously cancelled.

Claims: 09/905,261

1. A mount releasably adhered to a single sheet of a backing material, the mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and being a mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, and comprising a body having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to part of the surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive.
4. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first and second surfaces of the mount are mutually opposite.
5. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first surface of the mount adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of the sheet object to form the mountable arrangement.
6. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount releasably secures the mountable arrangement directly to glass.
7. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
8. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is flexible.
9. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount is transparent.
14. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2 mm.
15. A mount according to claim 14, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
16. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is square, rectangular, triangular or circular.
17. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.

18. A mount according to claim 1, wherein the mount comprises a pigment material.
25. A mount for mounting a sheet object to glass, consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet object permanently or releasably to form a mountable arrangement and a second surface which secures such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite
26. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface carrying an adhesive coating, adheres the mount to only a part of one surface of a sheet object to form a mountable arrangement.
27. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first or second surface of the mount is flat.
28. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the mount is flexible.
31. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the thickness of the mount is preferably up to 2mm.
32. A mount according to claim 31, wherein the second surface area of the mount is in the range of about 100mm<sup>2</sup> to 900mm<sup>2</sup>.
33. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the second surface of the mount does not adhere the mount to paper.
34. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the first surface of the mount is adhered releasably to a backing material.
35. A mount according to claim 25, wherein the entire surface of the mount is adhered to less than half of the area of a surface of a sheet object for permitting the said sheet object to be mounted to glass.
36. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:
  - releasably adhering a first surface of a mount to the first material with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and first material form a mountable arrangement; and

- securing a second surface of the mount to the second material without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and the mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

37. The method according to claim 36, wherein the first material is a paper-based material.

38. The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material is a glass-based material.

39. The method according to claim 36, wherein the second material has a smooth surface.

40. A method for securing a first material to a second material, comprising:

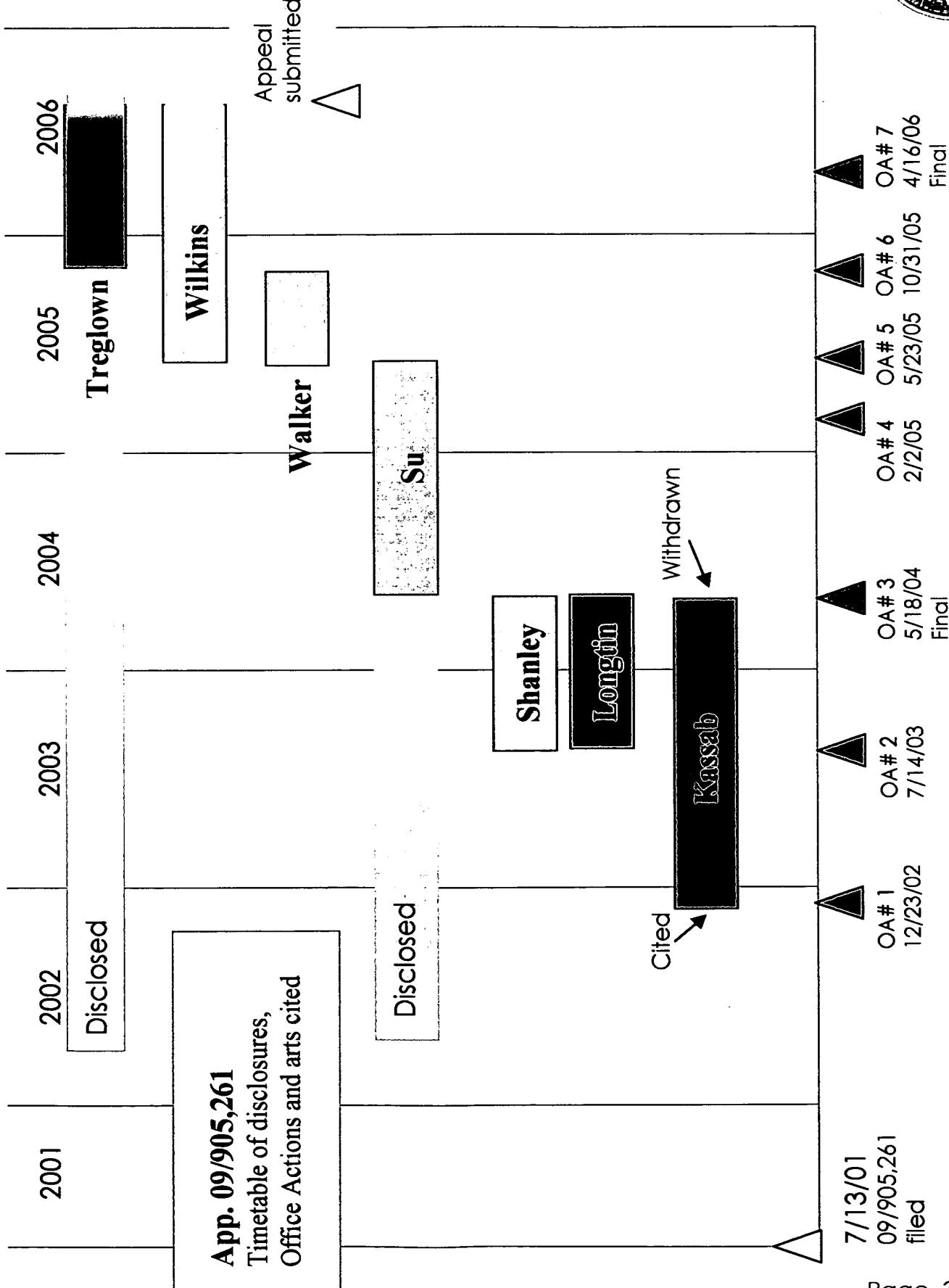
- adhering a first surface of a mount to a part of one surface of a sheet of paper with an adhesive coating carried by the first surface, wherein the mount and the sheet of paper form a mountable arrangement; and
- securing a second surface of the mount to glass without adhesive, where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite and each mount consists of a single layer of plastic such as PVC.

41. A mount arrangement for mounting paper to glass comprising:  
a plurality of mounts, each mount consisting of a single layer of plastic such as PVC and having a first surface carrying an adhesive coating which adheres the mount to a sheet of paper to form a mountable arrangement, and a second surface capable of securing such a mountable arrangement directly to glass without adhesive; where the first and second surfaces are mutually opposite.

## Evidence Appendix

This appendix contains the following items of evidence :

1. For information, the chronology of the current and other cited arts is shown in 2 pages in this section : pp 20 & 21
2. Present Application : (09/905,261) Publication Date : July 18, 2001 : 9 pages
3. Wilkins's US patent, 6038803, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection, 23<sup>rd</sup> May, 2005 : 7 pages.
4. Treglowan's abandoned UK application, GB2333050, first entered by the Examiner in a non-final rejection 29<sup>th</sup> October, 2005 : 10 pages



## Chronology of Transactions

Inventor	Cited art title	Number	Date	Date cited	Rejection withdrawn	NOTES
Kassab, P.K.	Static cling intermediary	6,258,200	7/10/2001	Non-final OA#1 12/23/2002	5/18/2004	Longtin And Shanley cited in Kassab
Longtin, A.G.	Piggyback assembly of static cling decal, intermediate layer and adhesive web	5,334,431	2/8/1994	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	Kassab Maintained, Longtin, Shanley cited
Shanley, T.M.	For use by personnel of vehicle and equipment service organizations, manufactured, partially preprinted, service invoice record forms, having piggyback vinyl static cling customer service information labels are provided, for completion of all respective	5,403,025	4/4/1995	Non-final OA#2 7/14/2003	5/18/2004	" " "
Su, C-F	Adhesive plate assembly for sheet object	5,462,782	10/31/1995	Non-final OA#3 5/18/2004	5/23/2005	Kassab, Longtin, Shanley objections withdrawn. Su cited first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant
				Final Reject'n OA#4 02/02/2005		: Su maintained, no new cited arts
Wilkins, F.E.	Apparatus for decorating picture holders with seasonal or other displays	6,038,803	3/21/2000	Non-final OA#5 5/23/2005		Rejections of Su withdrawn. Wilkins and Walker now cited
Walker, M.R.	Wrap film dispenser/film cutter	GB2272682	5/25/1994	" "	?	
Treglown, L. A.	Blue tabs	GB2333050	7/14/1999	Non-final OA#6 10/31/2005		Treglown first considered by examiner 12-01-02 after disclosure by applicant. Rejection of Walker withdrawn?
				Final Reject'n OA#7 4/17/2006		No new cited arts. Examiner sustains Wilkins, Treglown objections

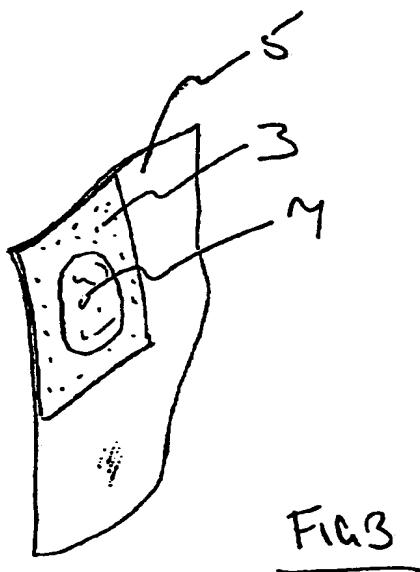
# UK Patent Application GB 2 333 050 A

(43) Date of A Publication 14.07.1999

(21) Application No 9800265.2	(51) INT CL <sup>6</sup> A47G 1/17
(22) Date of Filing 08.01.1998	(52) UK CL (Edition Q ) B2E EM A4X X14
(71) Applicant(s) Louise Ann Treglown 55 Smallack Drive, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon, PL6 5EB, United Kingdom	(56) Documents Cited GB 2320448 A GB 2207350 A
Peter Roberts Barnfield House, Ermington, Devon, PL21 9JT, United Kingdom	(58) Field of Search UK CL (Edition Q ) A4X XU25 X14 , B2E EM INT CL <sup>6</sup> A47G 1/17 Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC
(72) Inventor(s) Louise Ann Treglown Peter Roberts	
(74) Agent and/or Address for Service Louise Ann Treglown 55 Smallack Drive, Crownhill, Plymouth, Devon, PL6 5EB, United Kingdom	

(54) Abstract Title  
Blue tabs

(57) A Blue Tab 3(Fig 3) is applied to a poster 5(Fig 3) or other items made from paper or other absorbent material, to strengthen and protect a poster from damage that can be caused as a result of fixing said poster to a surface using adhesive putty 7(Fig 3) or sticky tape. The Tab is a non-porous piece of flexible film where a relatively thin layer of pressure sensitive adhesive has been applied to one surface 14(Fig 4). The Tab may be of any pre-formed shape but, preferably, it will have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges. The backing sheet 12 (Fig 4) to which the Tab is releasably secured, provides a combined carrier for the tab and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust and dirt. The tabs may be formed from PVC or polyethylene.

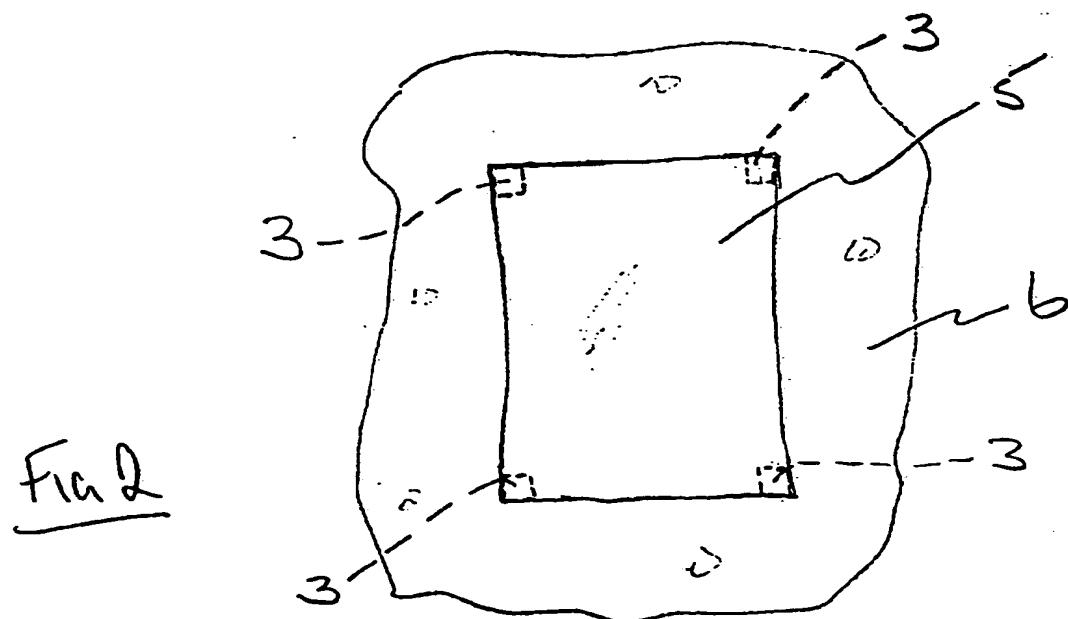
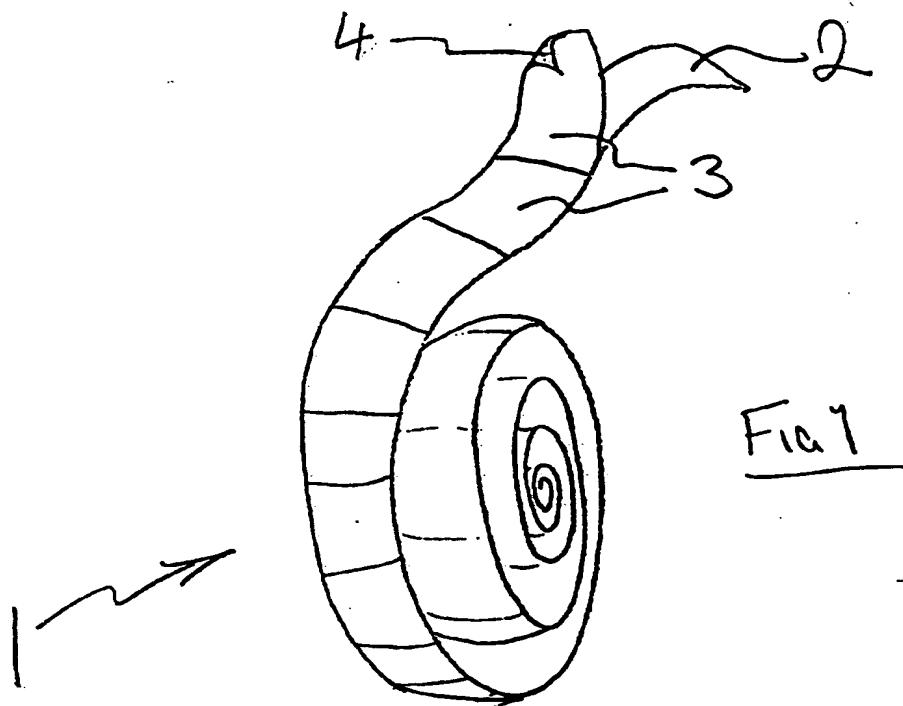


GB 2 333 050 A

The claims were filed later than the filing date within the period prescribed by Rule 25(1) of the Patents Rules 1995

At least one of these pages has been prepared from an original which was unsuitable for direct photoreproduction.

1/2



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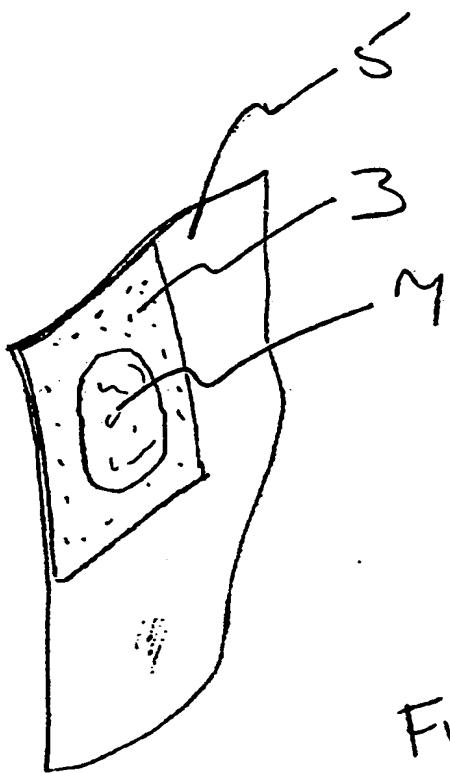


Fig 3

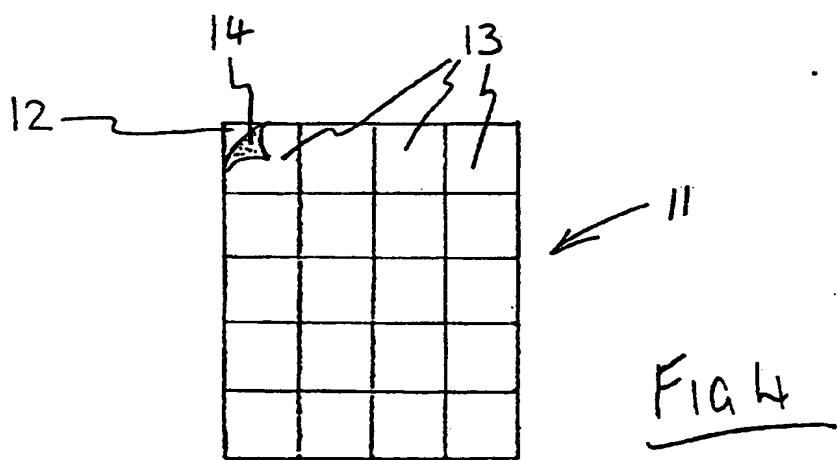


Fig 4

## **MOUNTING POSTERS**

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### **TECHNICAL FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

This invention relates to articles of the kind which generally carry printed or hand-applied matter, which may be of an artistic, promotional or informative nature. In most cases the articles are formed of sheets of paper or thin card, but less commonly, they may be of other flexible materials. For convenience, such articles will be collectively referred to herein simply as "posters".

### **BACKGROUND**

In schools, homes and offices posters are frequently secured to a wall or other surface for display. In the past, means of attachment such as drawing pins and adhesive tape have been used, but these cause damage either to the poster itself and/or the surface to which it is attached.

In recent years it has become commonplace to hang posters using pieces of adhesive putty interposed between the rear of the poster and the surface. However, in the case of posters of a porous nature the putty tends to be absorbed into the poster so that any attempt to remove the putty or move the

poster can result in damage to the poster.

The present invention seeks to provide a new and inventive means of securing posters to a surface.

#### **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention proposes a method of attaching a poster to a surface which comprises the steps of:

- peeling pre-shaped protective elements from a protective backing sheet, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are releasably secured to said backing sheet;
- applying said elements to the rear of a poster at selected mutually spaced positions such that said elements become attached thereto by means of said pressure-sensitive adhesive; and
- attaching said poster to a surface using lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

The invention further provides a poster having pre-shaped protective elements applied to the rear of said poster at selected mutually spaced positions, said elements comprising pieces of non-porous film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive by which said elements are attached to said poster, said poster being attached to a surface by lumps of adhesive putty interposed between said elements and said surface.

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

The following description and the accompanying drawings referred to therein are included by way of non-limiting example in order to illustrate how the invention may be put into practice. In the drawings:

Figure 1 is a general view of a reel of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention,

Figure 2 is a general view of a poster mounted on a wall in accordance with the invention,

Figure 3 is a detail of corner of the poster, viewed from the rear, and

Figure 4 is a front view of a sheet of adhesive tab elements for use in the invention.

## DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

In Fig. 1 there is provided a roll 1 formed of a strip 2 of a flexible material to which pressure-sensitive adhesives can be releasably secured such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE. The said material provides a combined releasable carrier and protective backing sheet to which individual tabs 3 are secured. The tabs 3 may be of any pre-formed shape, but they preferably have two adjacent straight and mutually perpendicular edges. In this example the tabs are

rectangular. The tabs 3 are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 4 applied to one surface. The said adhesive temporarily attaches the tabs 3 to the backing sheet 2 prior to use, which in turn protects the adhesive layer against contamination by dust or dirt.

As shown in Fig. 2, the tabs 3 are used in mounting a poster 5 formed of paper or thin card, on a rigid substrate such as a wall 6. It will be appreciated that the poster could equally be mounted on any other suitable surface such as a door or ceiling for example. Firstly, the required number of tabs 3 (in this case four) are peeled from the backing 2 and applied to suitable mutually spaced positions on the rear surface of the poster 5. Generally it will be convenient to mount one tab in each corner, although tabs could also be placed in other positions, particularly if the poster is large. Also, when mounting the tabs at the corners of the poster it is preferred to align two mutually perpendicular edges of the tabs with the two edges of the poster so that the rear surface of the poster is completely covered at the corners. Similarly, the other tabs are preferably aligned with one edge of the poster. This greatly assists in removal of the poster without damage (see below). The adhesive layer is thus used to permanently attach the tabs to the poster, using application of moderate pressure to ensure a good bond.

The poster is then mounted on the surface using lumps of proprietary adhesive putty 7 (Fig. 3) which are applied to the exposed non-adhesive surfaces of the tabs 3. Again moderate pressure is applied to bond the putty to the tabs, following which the poster is then applied to a wall using application of finger-pressure through the poster to ensure that the lumps of

putty become firmly bonded to the tabs and the surface of the wall. Care should be exercised to ensure that the size of the lumps and their positioning does not result in direct contact between the putty and the poster.

If required, the poster can be removed by severing the bond between the putty and either the wall and/or the tabs. By ensuring that the tabs are aligned with the edges of the poster during application thereto it is ensured that, during removal, the user grips and pulls the tabs rather than the poster alone, so that the risk of damage to the poster is reduced. The tabs serve several functions:

- They prevent the putty from being absorbed into the paper.
- They strengthen the paper and prevent it from tearing in the region of the putty.
- They form a release interface for easy separation between the putty and the tabs.

In the worst case, any putty still adhering to the tabs can be scraped off the tabs without causing damage to the poster.

As a result, the poster is undamaged and can be re-hung by applying fresh putty to the existing tabs, or fresh tabs can be applied to the rear of the poster if desired.

It will be appreciated that the roll of tabs shown in Fig. 1 is by way of illustration only. As shown in Fig. 4, the tabs could also be provided in the form of flat sheets 11, which each incorporate a number of tabs, as shown, or a single tab. The backing sheet 12 is again formed of a suitable flexible

material such as wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or a non-stick material such as PTFE to provide a releasable carrier for the tabs 13. In this example the tabs are again rectangular, but they could be of other shapes as discussed above. The tabs are formed of a non-absorbent flexible film such as polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polyethylene or other suitable plastics, with a thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive 14 applied to one surface to releasably secure them to the backing sheet 12 prior to use.

It will be appreciated that the features disclosed herein may be present in any feasible combination. Whilst the above description lays emphasis on those areas which, in combination, are believed to be new, protection is claimed for any inventive combination of the features disclosed herein.

\* \* \* \* \*

**CLAIMS**

1. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film having a relatively thin layer of pressure-sensitive adhesive applied to one surface by which the said pre-shaped piece is releasably secured to a protective backing sheet.
2. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1, when attached to the rear of posters or other items at mutually spaced positions, offers protection against damage that may occur to said posters and other items when using adhesive putty or sticky tape to attach said posters or other items to a wall or other surface using adhesive putty or sticky tape.
3. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 may be of any pre-formed shape, but preferably have two adjacent straight and perpendicular edges.
4. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 3 which may be made from polyvinyl chloride (pvc), polythene, or any other such suitable material or a combination of these materials.
5. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 which may be made from wax-impregnated paper, naturally waxy plastics or other non-stick material such as PTFE or a combination of these materials.
6. A protective backing sheet as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 5 to which a pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as claimed in Claim 1 and Claim 4, can be releasably attached, provides a combined releasable carrier and protection to the adhesive from contamination from dust or dirt.
7. A pre-shaped piece of non-porous flexible film as herein described and illustrated in the accompanying drawing.



The  
Patent  
Office



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

Application No: GB 9800265.2  
Claims searched: 1-7

Examiner: Jason Scott  
Date of search: 23 March 1999

**Patents Act 1977**  
**Search Report under Section 17**

**Databases searched:**

UK Patent Office collections, including GB, EP, WO & US patent specifications, in:

UK Cl (Ed.Q): B2E (EM); A4X (X14, XU25)

Int Cl (Ed.6): A47G (1/17)

Other: Online: WPI, JAPIO, EPODOC

**Documents considered to be relevant:**

Category	Identity of document and relevant passage		Relevant to claims
X	GB 2320448 A	WEBMASTER See page 6, paragraph 6 and page 7, paragraph 2.	1-6
A	GB 2207350 A	SHELTON See whole document.	

X	Document indicating lack of novelty or inventive step	A	Document indicating technological background and/or state of the art.
Y	Document indicating lack of inventive step if combined with one or more other documents of same category.	P	Document published on or after the declared priority date but before the filing date of this invention.
&	Member of the same patent family	E	Patent document published on or after, but with priority date earlier than, the filing date of this application.

**Related Proceedings Appendix**

None